

# MEMO

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**DATE:** September 12, 2006

**TO:** Open Space Working Group

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Chapter Format and Structure

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## **SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:**

Staff has prepared a demonstration of the basic structure and format for Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Chapters. The attached write-up both describes each of the elements of a plan chapter, and provides examples for Open Space and Habitat. It should be clearly noted, however, that the outcomes and strategies shown are not proposals for inclusion in the chapter, but merely demonstrations.

## **Attachment**

Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Open Space and Habitat Chapter: Basic Chapter Structure and Sample Outcomes/Strategies

**Southern California Association of Governments  
Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Energy Chapter  
Basic Chapter Structure  
Sample Outcomes/Strategies**

**RCP Purpose and Approach**

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) promotes policy objectives of the Regional Council, fulfills and implements the new organizational Strategic Plan, and serves to assist outside parties in implementing regional plans.

**RCP Standard Chapter Sections -**

**Existing Conditions Section (“Problem Statement”)**

This section lays out the best available survey of information on the topic, emphasizing areas of particular interest consistent with performance outcomes.

**Policies**

The policy section compiles the full body of existing and new applicable regional policy in list form. This section is focused on the regional growth vision (2% Strategy) adopted in 2004.

**Performance Outcomes**

This section sets out a limited number (1-4) of specific quantified objectives. Consistent with “problem statement” emphasized in “Existing Conditions” section. The performance outcomes are the “centerpiece” of the chapter, and establish what the region is setting out to achieve.

**Strategy and Actions**

The Strategy and action section will describe specific activities intended to achieve the performance outcomes in the prior section. Shown below are generalized examples of strategies and actions. The actual plan chapter should make specific action recommendations for a variety of parties (e.g Federal governments, State, region, cities and counties).

**Resources and Bibliography**

This section will compile references and information resources.

**NOTE** – This write-up was prepared for the Open Space Working Group to demonstrate the intended structure of RCP Chapters. As such it presents 2 sample performance outcomes and associated actions and strategies. This *should not* be construed as a proposal to include these particular items in the plan. The RCP Purpose and Approach, and the example regional policy shown, however, do represent actions taken by the Regional Council, and will be included.

**Examples for Open Space (see note)**

Section	Example 1	Example 2
Existing Conditions (problem statement)	The region lacks sufficient community open space.	The region's natural habitat is threatened and segmented by development.
Policy	(The region will) develop strategies to encourage development of community open space.	(The region will) develop strategies to encourage habitat linkages.
Performance Outcome(s)	The region will increase acreage of active and passive recreation parks by 2020.	The region will increase viable habitat via linkages in each county by 2020.
Strategy and Actions	<p>The region will establish land use patterns that increase frequency of park space.</p> <p>The region will establish infrastructure that supports access to park space.</p> <p>Governments will encourage maintenance of community open space.</p> <p>Governments will encourage creation and maintenance of community gardens.</p>	<p>The region will support the development of new technologies for modification of crossings.</p> <p>The region will support community awareness of importance and general locations of linkages.</p> <p>Governments will encourage maintenance of viable habitat linkages.</p>

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